



(Staff Photo By Kenneth Silver)

Half of a 1575 English coin compared in size to a 25-cent piece. It was found last Saturday at NASA-Langley Research Center.

# NASA-Langley Site Yields Ancient Coin

By LAURA MASON

Staff Reporter

A 400-year-old coin has been found at NASA's Langley Research Center during a survey being done this month by the LRC Historical and Archeological Society.

According to Frank Farmer, president of the organization and an employee at Langley, the coin was found by Mrs. Joanné Swift, the wife of another NASA employee and a member of the society, while she was helping with the survey Oct. 12.

Mrs. Swift was working approximately 100 feet from an old stone foundation which society members believe may mark the original birthplace of George Wythe. The foundation, located in the "West Area" of Langley Research Center, was discovered two years ago when NASA engineers were laying a test track.

According to Farmer, the coin was down only about one foot in the excavations.

The silver coin bearing the date 1575, was originally worth six pence in England and bears an inscription in Latin along with the Tudor coat of arms and a picture of Queen Elizabeth I. Farmer explained that back in those days coins were frequently broken in half if the owner only wanted to spend three pence and that the coin found was only one-half of a six pence piece but "luckily the one bearing the date."

Farmer said he took the coin to the anthropology department of the College of William and Mary and it was authenticated. The antique coin will be retained by the society and will be put on display with other artifacts found when the excavations are completed.

SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS-HAMPTON, VA. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1974